

## 14th ANNUAL YOUTH WRITING COMPETITION

The Virginia Outdoor Writers Association, Inc. (VOWA) announces its 14th Annual Youth Writing Competition for 2006. The goal of the contest is to reward young people for excellence in communicating their personal experiences in and of the outdoors.

The competition is open to all Virginia students in grades 9 through 12. Home-schooled students are welcome to enter.

The theme of this year's contest is "**My Most Memorable Outdoor Experience.**" An experience by the writer with hunting, fishing, camping, canoeing, hiking, birding or other outdoor activity should be the predominant subject matter. No athletic event or competition is an eligible subject matter.

If teachers have a class assignment for this contest and are graded by the teachers, we ask that the original compositions rated with an "A" or a "B" grade be submitted for consideration. The contest information will be provided to the State Department of Education early in October for dissemination to the various schools early on in the school year.

Submissions can be submitted in a Microsoft Word, text file or a PDF file since the three top winners will be published on the VOWA web site, and may be in other publications or on web sites.

E-mail submissions are encouraged—write the document and then attach it to an e-mail. The submission deadline is **January 31, 2007**.

If there are too few quality entries the judges have the right to declare a "no contest."

Awards will consist of gift certificates from Bass Pro Shop--\$100 for 1st; \$75 for 2nd and \$50 for 3rd place.

Winners will be announced and awards presented at the VOWA's Annual Meeting in Roanoke, Virginia, in conjunction with the Outdoor Writers Association of America conference, during the week of June 18-22, 2007, with the date, time and place to be announced. Their parents (or mentor/friend) will be guests of VOWA for the presentation event.

### General Contest Guidelines for 2006:

1. Open to all Virginia students in grades 9--12, including those students who are home schooled.
2. Nonfiction only, with the theme "**My Most Memorable Outdoor Experience.**" Create your own name for the article--other than using the words of the theme listed above.
3. Length: 500-750 words which must be typed, double-spaced.
4. Electronic submissions are encouraged; send as a Microsoft Word or plain text attachment to an e-mail. Submission can be made through a PDF file format.
5. Include age, grade, and school or specify if home schooled.
6. Include complete mailing address and evening telephone number; include e-mail address, if available, for correspondence purposes only.
7. Submissions not meeting the contest guidelines and criteria will be disqualified.
8. Submission deadline is **January 31, 2007**.
9. Send submissions to:

**Dan Genest**  
**12500 Musical Lane**  
**Midlothian, VA 23113**  
**(804) 378-8262**  
[Dan\\_Genest@dom.com](mailto:Dan_Genest@dom.com)

